

GRAVE OF MAJ. GEN. ARTHUR ST. CLAIR.

APRIL 25, 1890.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. O'NEILL, of Pennsylvania, from the Committee on the Library, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 774.]

The Committee on the Library, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 774) to preserve the grave of Maj. Gen. Arthur St. Clair and erect a monument over the same, submit the following report:

Maj. Gen. Arthur St. Clair was commissioned colonel by the Continental Congress in 1776. He served with courage and ability under Montgomery in the campaign on Quebec, and in August the same year was made brigadier-general, and joined General Washington. He fought under the eye of his commander in the closing battles of 1776, at White Plains, Trenton, and Princeton. He suggested to General Washington the ruse of war by which the Hessians were surprised at Princeton. In 1777 he enjoyed the confidence of General Washington to such an extent that he was promoted to major-general. He commanded at Ticonderoga and gained credit for a forced but masterly retreat, decided upon by a council of war. After the treason of Arnold he commanded at West Point, and succeeded Gates in command of Philadelphia. He sat with Lafayette, Parsons, Clinton, Knox, and others at the trial of Major André.

In 1785 he was elected to Congress, and was chosen president of that body in 1787. He was later appointed by President Washington governor of the Northwest Territory, embracing all the region north and west of the Ohio River, and was confirmed by Congress. He was in the following year appointed commander in chief of the Army, and fought a great battle with the Miami Indians.

He was governor for fifteen years of that large Territory, which now includes five great independent States and millions of the foremost citizens of the Republic. His duties were arduous, his toil unceasing, and the results marvelous. He established laws, erected counties, selected officers, fixed titles, held treaties, and administered justice. He refers to this subject in a letter in answer to the ladies of New York, who later, in his poverty and declining years, sent him a small sum of money. He says:

I had fondly hoped that my military services had been of benefit to my country; but let that pass. Besides these services which you have so kindly eulogized I, at my own expense in a great measure, raised up a colony to the United States from thirty men to sixty thousand, amalgamated the most heterogeneous mass of population; carried law, religion, and manners to the extreme bounds of the Territory; made the people happy, and laid the foundation for the continuance of that happiness to millions yet unborn, in the accomplishment of which every faculty of mind and body were unceasingly employed.

Perhaps there was not a prominent character of the revolutionary period, with the exception of Morris, who gave so much of his life, his service, and means to America as did St. Clair, and there was none, with that exception, so poorly recompensed. So distinguished for his courage, services, and ability, superior in education and gentlemanly instincts, companion and associate of Lafayette, Steuben, Hamilton, and Washington, a sharer of their glory, a general in chief of the Army, and a president of Congress, closed his life in neglected solitude, his remains and resting place almost unknown and unmarked:

He died August 31, 1818. He was buried by his Masonic brethren in the cemetery at Greensburgh, Westmoreland County, Pa., where a modest stone marks his grave, on which is cut this inscription:

The earthly remains of Major General Arthur St. Clair are deposited beneath this humble monument, which is erected to supply the place of a nobler one, due from his country.

Your committee report the bill favorably and recommend its passage.